

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of controlling power consumption of an electronic apparatus to be connected communicably with a management apparatus via a network, wherein

10 the management apparatus performs power-saving control for the electronic apparatus when the electronic apparatus is connected to the network; and

15 the electronic apparatus performs the power-saving control for the electronic apparatus when the electronic apparatus is disconnected from the network.

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the step of determining whether the power-saving control is to be performed by the electronic apparatus or the management apparatus in accordance with predetermined information when the electronic apparatus is connected to the network.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

35 the management apparatus sends an inquiry as to whether the power-saving control is to be performed or not to the electronic apparatus; and the electronic apparatus sends a response

to the inquiry from the management apparatus.

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4. A method of controlling power consumption of a management apparatus to which an electronic apparatus is connected via a network, and which shares a common apparatus with the electronic apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:  
10 detecting a usage status of the common apparatus by the electronic apparatus; and  
controlling an operation of the common apparatus in accordance with the detected usage  
15 status thereof.

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5. An electronic apparatus to be connected to a management apparatus via a network,  
said electronic apparatus comprising a power-saving control unit which performs power-saving control in accordance with power-saving  
25 control information supplied from the management apparatus via the network when said electronic apparatus is connected to the network.

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6. The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the power-saving control unit comprises:  
35 a status information transmitting unit which transmits status information of said electronic apparatus to the management apparatus via

the network; and

a first power-saving controller which performs the power-saving control for said electronic apparatus in accordance with the status information supplied from the status information transmitting unit and the power-saving control information supplied from the management apparatus via the network.

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7. The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first power-saving controller sets conditions for power-saving control in a start-up program for starting the said electronic apparatus, in accordance with the power-saving control information supplied from the management apparatus via the network.

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8. The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first power-saving controller controls a power-saving control function of each device built in said electronic apparatus in accordance with the power-saving control information supplied from the management apparatus via the network.

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9. The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

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a second power-saving controller which

performs the power-saving control for said electronic apparatus in accordance with predetermined conditions stored in said electronic apparatus; and

5                   a selecting unit which determines whether the power-saving control is to be performed by the first power-saving controller or the second power-saving controller when said electronic apparatus is connected to the network.

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10.   The electronic apparatus as claimed  
15   in claim 9, wherein the selecting unit sets information as to whether the power-saving control is to be performed by the first power-saving controller or the second power-saving controller in the start-up program for starting the electronic  
20   apparatus.

25                   11.   The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the selecting unit determines that the power-saving control is to be performed by the second power-saving controller when said electronic apparatus is disconnected from the  
30   network.

35                   12.   A management apparatus to be connected to an electronic apparatus via a network, said management apparatus comprising a power-saving

control unit which detects a power consumption status of the electronic apparatus, generates power-saving control information indicating the power consumption status of the electronic apparatus, and  
5 then transmits the power-saving control information to the electronic apparatus via the network.

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13. The management apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the power-saving control unit comprises:

a connection notice detecting unit which  
15 detects a connection notice supplied from the electronic apparatus via the network;

a status information detecting unit which obtains status information in accordance with the power consumption status of the electronic apparatus  
20 supplied therefrom via the network; and

a power-saving control information generating unit which generates the power-saving control information indicating the power consumption status of the electronic apparatus in accordance  
25 with the status information obtained by the status information detecting unit, and which then transmits the power-saving control information to the electronic apparatus via the network.

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14. A management apparatus having a common apparatus shared with an electronic apparatus,  
35 wherein said management apparatus comprises:

a status detecting unit which detects a usage status of the common apparatus being used by

the electronic apparatus; and

a shared apparatus control unit which controls an operation of the common apparatus in accordance with the usage status thereof detected by  
5 the status detecting unit.

10 15. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program to be executed by a computer built in an electronic apparatus, the program controlling a power consumption status of the  
15 electronic apparatus in accordance with power-saving control information supplied from a management apparatus when the electronic apparatus is connected to the management apparatus.

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16. The recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein the program comprises:

a status information transmitting  
25 procedure for transmitting status information indicating the power consumption status of the electronic apparatus to the management apparatus; and

a power-saving control procedure for  
30 performing power-saving control in accordance with the status information and the power-saving control information supplied from the management apparatus.

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17. The recording medium as claimed in

claim 16, wherein the program sets conditions for power-saving control in a start-up program in the electronic apparatus in accordance with the power-saving control information supplied from the  
5 management apparatus.

10           18. The recording medium as claimed in claim 17, wherein the power-saving control procedure controls a power-saving control function of each device built in the electronic apparatus in accordance with the power-saving control information  
15 supplied from the management apparatus.

20           19. The recording medium as claimed in claim 16, wherein the power-saving control procedure includes a judging procedure for determining whether power-saving control is to be performed in accordance with the power-saving control information  
25 supplied from the management apparatus or not based on predetermined setting information.

30           20. The recording medium as claimed in claim 16, wherein the power-saving control procedure controls the power-saving control using built-in power-saving control functions when the electronic  
35 apparatus is disconnected from the management apparatus.

21. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program to be executed by a computer so as to generate power-saving control information indicating a power consumption status of an  
5 electronic apparatus, and then transmit the power-saving control information to the electronic apparatus, when the electronic apparatus is connected to a management apparatus.

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22. The recording medium as claimed in claim 21, wherein the program comprises:

15 a connection notice detecting procedure for detecting a connection notice supplied from the electronic apparatus when the electronic apparatus is connected to the management apparatus;

a condition information detecting  
20 procedure for obtaining status information of the electronic apparatus supplied therefrom; and

a power-saving control information transmitting procedure for generating the power-saving control information indicating the power  
25 consumption status of the electronic apparatus in accordance with the status information, and then transmitting the power-saving control information to the electronic apparatus.

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23. The recording medium as claimed in claim 22, wherein the power-saving control  
35 information transmitting procedure controls a power-saving control function of each device of the electronic apparatus in accordance with the power-



saving control information supplied from the management apparatus.

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24. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program to be executed by a computer to control an operation of a common apparatus in accordance with a usage status thereof, the common apparatus being shared among a plurality of electronic apparatuses.

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25. The recording medium as claimed in claim 24, wherein the program comprises:

a usage frequency detecting procedure for detecting how often the common apparatus is used by the electronic apparatuses; and

a common apparatus control procedure for controlling an operation of the common apparatus in accordance with the detected usage frequency.

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